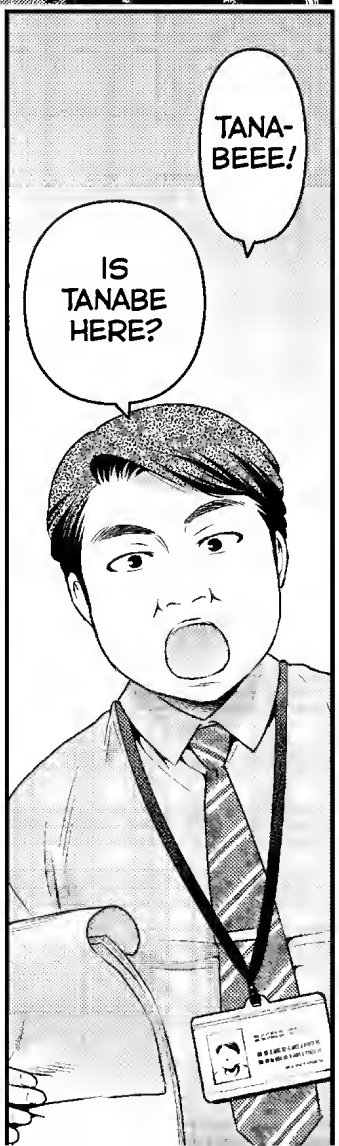
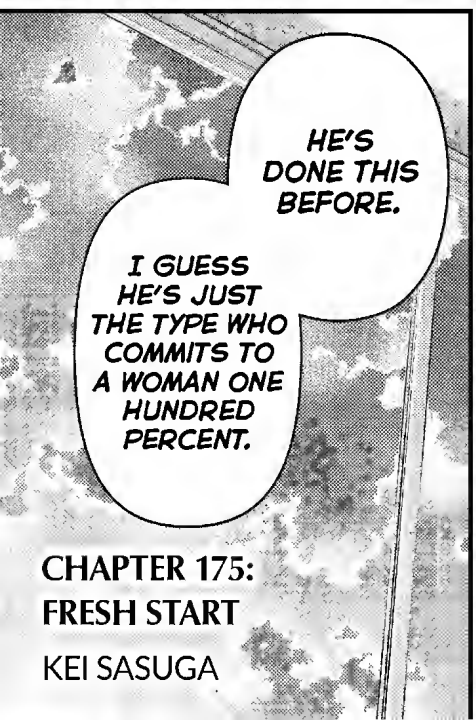
Domestic Girlfriend

KODANSHA COMICS

CHAPTER 175

KEI SASUGA



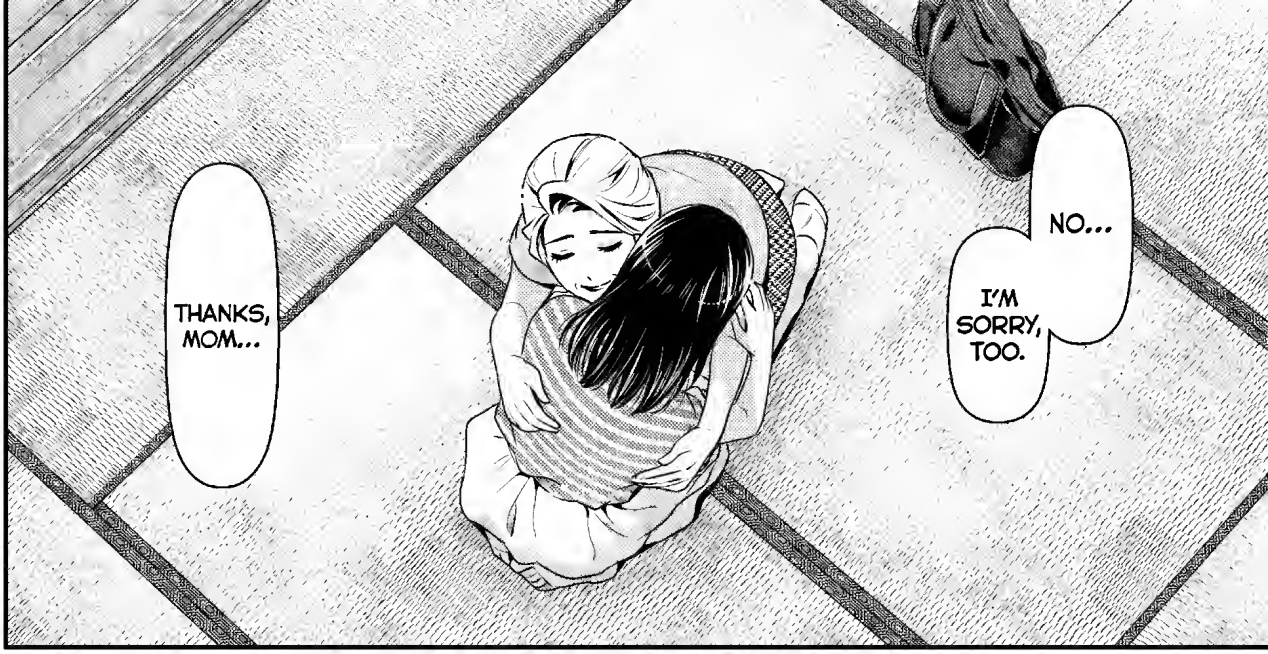


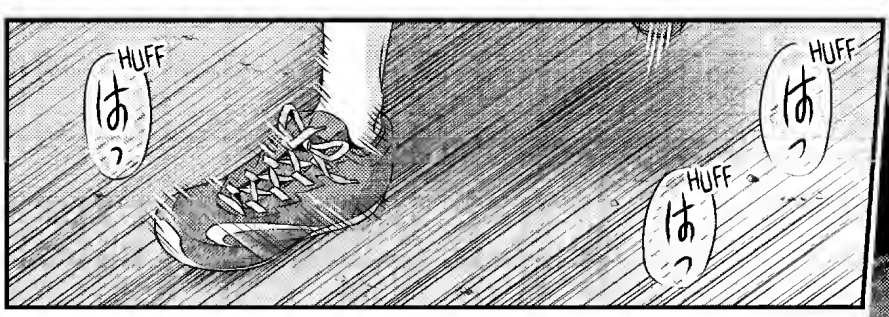
CHAPTER 175: FRESH START

KEI SASUGA

KNOCK
KNOCK
I'M HOME!
HEY, MOM...
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANNA TALK ABOUT.
GOT A MINUTE?
SURE.
WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, DEAR?
...
IT'S ABOUT TANABE-SAN.
...
GO ON.
UM ...
LAST WEEK, HE ASKED ME TO GO OUT WITH HIM WITH THE PROSPECT OF GETTING MARRIED EVENTUALLY.

I KNOW YOU ONLY HAD MY BEST INTERESTS IN MIND,
AND I DIDN'T WANT THINGS TO GET AWKWARD BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR CLIENT,
SO I WENT BACK AND FORTH ON IT A LOT, BUT...
I JUST ...
...FELT LIKE WE WEREN'T A GOOD MATCH IN A LOT OF WAYS.
BUT... ...I TURNED HIM DOWN.
...I JUST ...
OH, IS THAT ALL?
HUH?
IT'S FINE. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
AND HERE I WAS BRACING MYSELF FOR ANOTHER BOMBSHELL.
BUT ...
I ONLY BROUGHT THAT UP BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY, DEAR.
I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT.
PLEASE DON'T THINK I JUST WANT YOU TO HURRY UP AND GET MARRIED.
FOLLOW YOUR HEART, HINA.
I'M SORRY YOU WORRIED YOURSELF SICK OVER THIS.


NO...
I'M SORRY, TOO.
THANKS, MOM...


HUFF
はっ
HUFF
はっ
HUFF
はっ

I'M BACK.
DID YOU GO FOR A RUN?
AT LEAST BE BACK IN TIME TO EAT AS A FAMILY.

CHACK
ガチャ

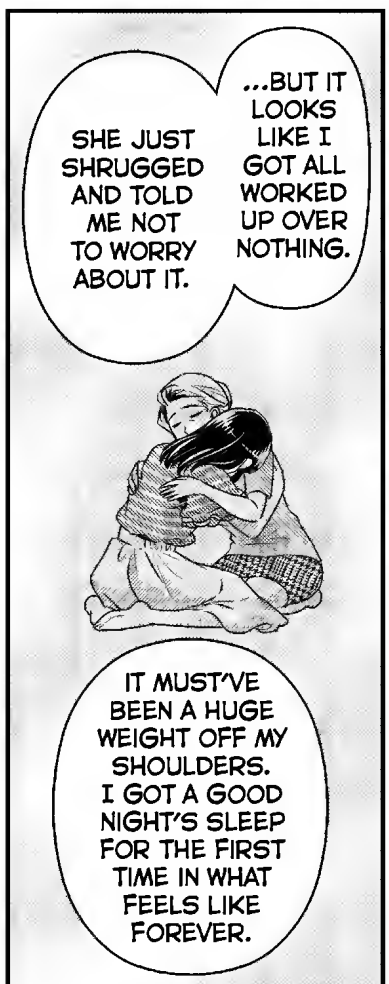
SORRY, SORRY.
BY THE WAY, HOW ARE THINGS BETWEEN YOU AND THAT GIRL?
TACHIBANA-SAN'S DAUGHTER.
EVERYTHING GOING WELL?

WE'RE DOING GREAT.
SURE.
EXCUSE MEEE!
YES! BE RIGHT WITH–

LOOK WHO'S HARD AT WORK!
I'LL HAVE A BLT AND AN ICED COFFEE, PLEASE! ♪
DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME.

ARE YOU ON LUNCH?
NO, I HAVE THE NIGHT SHIFT TONIGHT.
I JUST STOPPED BY BECAUSE I WANTED TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.

HINA-NEE!

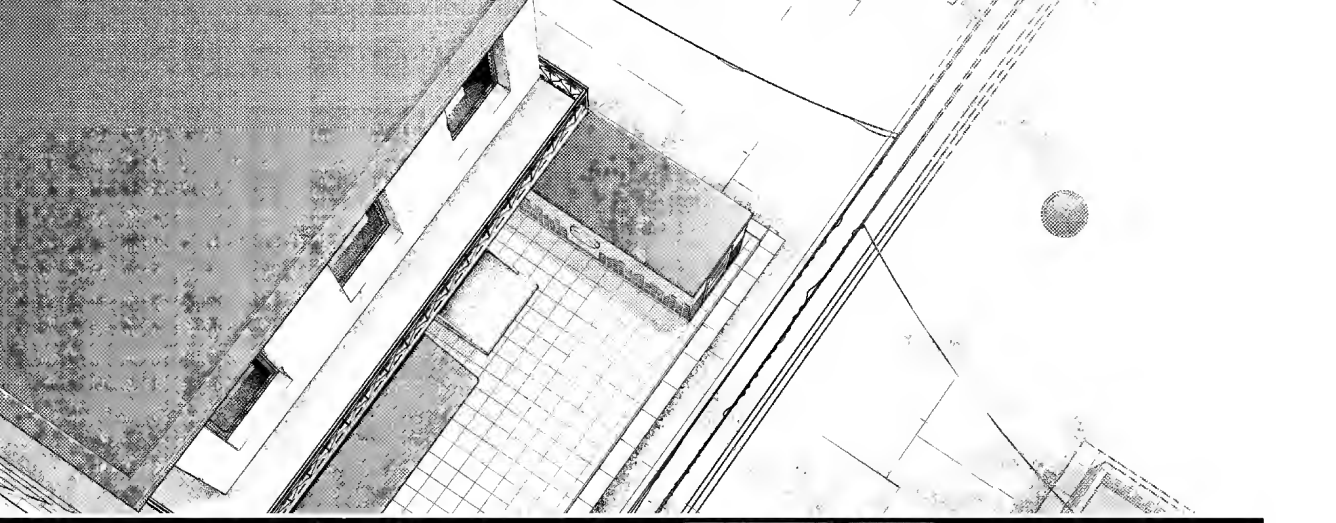

...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I GOT ALL WORKED UP OVER NOTHING.
SHE JUST SHRUGGED AND TOLD ME NOT TO WORRY ABOUT IT.
IT MUST'VE BEEN A HUGE WEIGHT OFF MY SHOULDERS. I GOT A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP FOR THE FIRST TIME IN WHAT FEELS LIKE FOREVER.

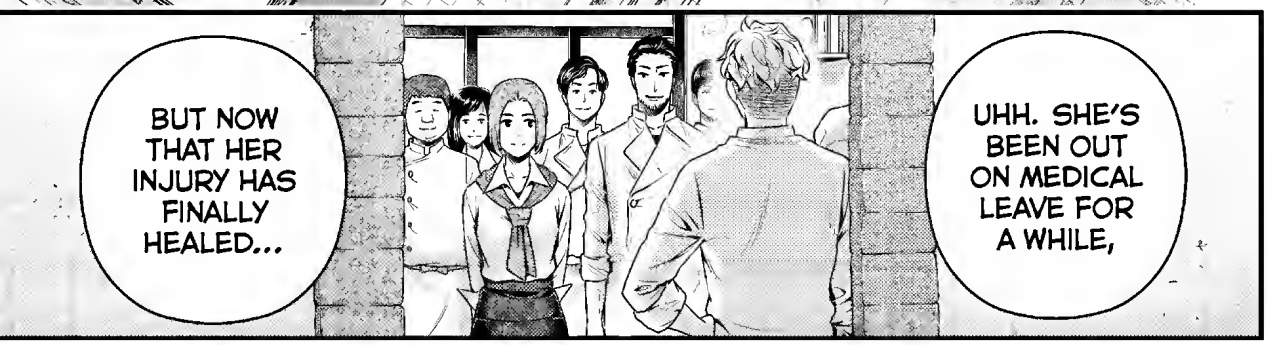
...!
I JUST FELT LIKE IT WASN'T GOING TO WORK OUT.
I WAS ON THE FENCE, SINCE I DIDN'T WANT TO CAUSE TROUBLE FOR MOM ...

I ENDED UP...
...TURNING DOWN TANABE-SAN'S OFFER.

AND IT'S ALL ...
...BECAUSE YOU GAVE ME THE PUSH I NEEDED, NATSUO-KUN.
THANKS A LOT!
WHAT ?!
YOU TURNED HIM DOWN ?!
YES.
YOU'RE KIDDING... COULDN'T YOU HAVE AS LEAST TRIED GOING OUT WITH HIM FIRST? Y'KNOW, TEST THE WATERS A LITTLE?
NO... I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE RUDE TO DRAG THINGS OUT.

THEN I'M SURE IT WAS THE RIGHT CHOICE.
LOVE TENDS TO MAKE PEOPLE BLIND, NO MATTER HOW HARD THEY TRY.
IF THAT'S THE DECISION YOU CAME TO WITHOUT ANYTHING CLOUDING YOUR JUDGMENT,
MMM... WELL, I GUESS SO.
I THINK THAT'S WISE, TACHIBANA-SAN.
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF LEARNING FROM YOUR MISTAKES, SUSUKINO-SHI?
IT'S NOT LIKE I KEEP STEPPING ON LANDMINES ON PURPOSE!
HEY...! ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ME?!
WEEELL, SOME PEOPLE GET DRUNK ON LOVE BEFORE THEY CAN EVEN MAKE A DECISION.




UHH. SHE'S BEEN OUT ON MEDICAL LEAVE FOR A WHILE,
BUT NOW THAT HER INJURY HAS FINALLY HEALED...

THINGS MIGHT BE TOUGH UNTIL YOU GET BACK INTO THE FLOW OF THE KITCHEN,
THINK OF IT AS A FRESH START AND DO YOUR BEST!
YES!

...I'D LIKE TO WELCOME TACHIBANA BACK TO THE CREW!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

HUH...
IT HEALED UP BETTER THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD.

IT'S FINE NOW THAT THE WOUND'S CLOSED. BESIDES, IT'D BE UNSANITARY IF I KEPT IT WRAPPED AT WORK.
SO, YOU DON'T NEED TO WRAP IT OR ANYTHING ANYMORE?
NOT REALLY. I HAD A GOOD DOCTOR.
DID GETTING STITCHES HURT?
OH.
OKAY ...
...WORK WITH KAJITA FOR THE TIME BEING, OKAY?
BUT SINCE IT'LL PROBABLY TAKE YOU SOME TIME TO GET BACK INTO THE SWING OF THINGS...
I'M GONNA PUT YOU BACK ON APPETIZER DUTY,
SURE.
SAME HERE.
I LOOK FOR-WARD TO WORKING WITH YOU.
I'LL BE ON APPETIZER DUTY WITH YOU STARTING TODAY.
UM...

WHY DOES IT FEEL LIKE HE'S TREATING ME LIKE THE NEW GIRL?!
OKAY. CAN YOU CLEAN AND PREP THE SQUID?
...
NO, NO! I HAVE TO FOCUS!
JUST LIKE I PRAC-TICED AT HOME.
CARE-FULLY ...
FWIP
...!
WHY THE HELL ARE YOU HOLDING IT LIKE THAT?

WHEN YOU FILLET SQUID, IT'S COMMON PRACTICE TO SLICE HORIZON-TALLY.
IF YOU TRY TO CUT VERTICALLY, THERE'S A CHANCE THE KNIFE WILL CATCH AND SLIP.
ALSO, DON'T STAND AT THE CUTTING BOARD WITH BOTH FEET SIDE-BY-SIDE.
KEEP YOUR RIGHT FOOT BACK HALF A STEP.
HASN'T ANYONE EVER TOLD YOU THAT?
BUT...
...I'VE ALWAYS DONE IT THIS WAY!
AND BECAUSE OF THAT, YOU GOT INJURED.
YOU MIGHT HAVE COASTED ALONG DOING YOUR OWN THING SO FAR,
BUT IF YOU DON'T EVEN FOLLOW THE BASICS, YOU'RE GONNA END UP HURTING YOURSELF AGAIN.

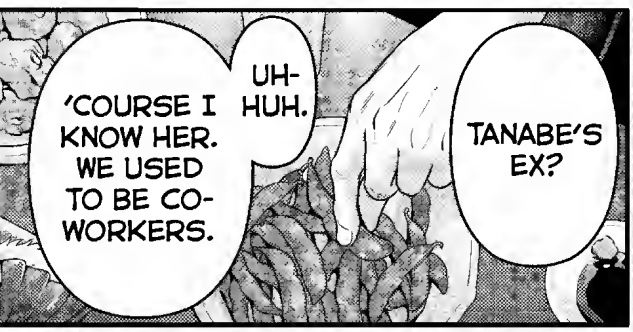
ALL RIGHT!
LET'S HAVE A TOAST TO RUI-CHAN'S RECOVERY!
READY?
CHEERS!
THANK GOODNESS YOU GOT TO GO BACK TO WORK! CONGRAT-ULATIONS, RUI-CHAN!
HOW WAS YOUR FIRST DAY BACK?
MMM. I GOT KINDA...
...FRUS-TRATED.
OH?
DID YOU MAKE A MISTAKE?
NOT EXACT-LY.
THERE'S THIS NEW GUY MY AGE THEY HIRED WHILE I WAS GONE.
HE KEEPS TALKING DOWN TO ME,
LIKE HE'S THE BOSS OR SOME-THING.
AND WHEN I STARTED PREPPING SQUID,
HE GAVE ME THIS BIG LECTURE ABOUT HOW I DON'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT THE BASICS...

WHAT'S HE LIKE?
SOUNDS LIKE HE KNOWS A LOT FOR SOMEONE THE SAME AGE AS YOU.
THEN HE TOLD ME I NEED TO READ UP ON HOW TO HANDLE INGREDIENTS! LIKE, WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS?!
I AM, DAMN IT!
NOW, NOW. HE'S JUST TRYING TO HELP.
I GUESS HE HAS A LOT OF KITCHEN EXPERIENCE OR SOMETHING.
APPARENTLY, HE ALREADY HAS HIS CHEF'S LICENSE, TOO...
BUT HE'S NOT A TEAM PLAYER.
HE'S MOODY, COLD, RUDE...
あっはっは
AH HA HA
WHAT?!
HE SOUNDS JUST LIKE YOU USED TO BE UNTIL A LITTLE WHILE AGO!
HUH?!
I WASN'T THAT RUDE!
I DUNNO, YOU COULD BE PRETTY BLUNT AT TIMES.
ER... REALLY? I FORGOT!
YOU'RE SPENDING THE NIGHT, AREN'T YOU, NATSUO?
YEAH.

KNOCK KNOCK
コン コン
I'M COMIN' IN.
カチャ
CHA
CK
GRATS ON GOING BACK TO WORK.
THANKS.
UHH...
HEY, SO...
THIS NEW GUY AT WORK.
HE'S A PAIN, HUH?
...
UH-HUH.
HMM. I SEE.
I KNOW HE PISSES YOU OFF AND ALL,
BUT HEARING YOU TALK ABOUT OTHER GUYS YOUR AGE IS KINDA...
I DUN-NO.
IT JUST DOESN'T SIT WELL WITH ME.
WHAT?
WHAT ABOUT HIM?
HUH?
ON...

NOW I THINK I KNOW WHERE YOU WERE COMING FROM...
...WHEN YOU SNAPPED AT ME A WHILE BACK.
!
FWIP
YOU'RE ADORABLE.
HUH ?
I REALLY WANNA KISS YOU RIGHT NOW.
CAN I?
...
SURE.
SAME GOES FOR ME, ANYWAY.

MAX
カラオケ
はいて


TANABE'S EX?
UH-HUH.
'COURSE I KNOW HER. WE USED TO BE CO-WORKERS.

HMM. WHAT WAS SHE LIKE?
SHE WAS PRETTY, AND CONSIDERATE. A GOOD GIRL ALL AROUND, I'D SAY.

BUT...I THINK IT WAS RIGHT AROUND THE TIME THEY BROKE UP.
SHE QUIT THE COMPANY ALL OF A SUDDEN.

RUMOR HAS IT,
SHE HAD A MENTAL BREAK-DOWN ...
...AND HAD TO BE HOSPITAL-IZED.